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Rhonda A. Etienne  
Rhonda A. Etienne

12/2/02  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Ken K. Tse et al.  
Serial No.: 09/483,248  
Filed: January 14, 2000  
Examiner: Ralph J. Gitomer  
Group Art Unit: 1627  
Confirmation No.: 8145  
Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC TISSUE STAINING**  
Atty Docket: LABV-03

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

December 2, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box RCE  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows.